

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:PB
APPROVED BY EB/TD:RHPHILLIPS
EUR/NE - MR. GOODMAN (SUBS)
OTP - MR. FISHMAN (INFO)
FCC - MR. GREENBURG (INFO)
-----004328 161347Z /50
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 067558

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: ETEL, BE

SUBJECT: TRANSATLANTIC SUBMARINE CABLE

REF: STATE 65464

1. SECOND SECRETARY, GUIDO COURTOIS, OF GOB EMBASSY
WASHINGTON CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICER (EB/TD) MARCH 14
TO CONVEY GOB CONCERN ABOUT CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY FCC IN
RECENT GUIDELINES AND RULE-MAKING WITH RESPECT TO
FACILITIES THAT WILL BE REQUIRED IN TIME PERIOD 1980-85 TO
HANDLE NORTH ATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC. FCC
DECIDED A SEVENTH SUBMARINE CABLE (TAT-7), WHICH HAD BEEN
DEEMED NECESSARY BY ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ADMINISTRATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL CANADIAN CARRIER, AND
THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CARRIERS WHICH WOULD JOINTLY
OWN AND USE THE PROPOSED CABLE WITH EUROPE AND CANADA,
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WAS NOT NEEDED.

2. COURTOIS READ FROM A "NON-PAPER" THE CONTENTS OF WHICH
ARE APPARENTLY IDENTICAL WITH A SIMILAR REPRESENTATION
MADE BY THE U.K. FOREIGN OFFICE TO EMBASSY LONDON. IN
ESSENCE, GOB BELIEVES CONCLUSIONS ABRUPTLY CUT SHORT
INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION (WHICH BEGAN IN 1971) ON

FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS. UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS INCLUDE MANNER
OF CALCULATING INCREMENTAL COSTS FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES,

ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING AND ALREADY PLANNED FACILITIES TO

HANDLE ANTICIPATED TRAFFIC, AND EXTENT TO WHICH DIVERSE
LINKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICE IN THE
EVENT OF A FAILURE OF ANY SINGLE LINK.

3. WE EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH TO COURTOIS U.S.
REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD (REFTEL,
PARA 3), STRESSING PARTICULARLY THAT WHILE DEPARTMENT MAY
ADVISE FCC OF RELEVANT FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, FCC
HAS STATUTORY AUTHORITY WHICH IT SHARES WITH NO OTHER
AGENCY TO MAKE DECISIONS AS TO WHICH FACILITIES MEET
THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY.

4. WE ADVISED COURTOIS WE WOULD INCLUDE BELGIAN VIEWS IN
A LETTER WE WERE PREPARING TO FCC CHAIRMAN REPORTING
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT IN RESPECT OF TAT-7. VANCE

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